



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
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MCO 6600.3
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MARINE CORPS ORDER 6600.3

From: Commandant of the Marine Corps
To: Distribution List

Subj: DENTAL HEALTH CARE PROGRAM

Ref: (a) SECNAVINST 6600.5
(b) MANMED (Chapter 6)
(c) MCO P1040.31G
(d) MCO 1300.20H
(e) MCO 1306.2N
(f) MCO 1326.6B
(g) NAVMEDCOMINST 6440.3A

Encl: (1) Dental Classification Guidelines

1. Purpose. To promulgate a comprehensive and clearly defined Dental Health Care Program for Marine Corps personnel.
2. Cancellation. MCO 6600.2.
3. Background. Military doctrine requires rapid response and prolonged sustainment of deployed forces. Because untreated oral diseases may impair performance and adversely impact on the effectiveness of deployed units and the conduct of exercises, a defined and structured Dental Health Care Program is required.
4. Program. The Marine Corps Dental Health Care Program includes:
 - a. Prioritizing dental health care resources to meet dental readiness requirements of all Marines.
 - b. A comprehensive preventive dental health regimen that includes but is not limited to:
 - (1) Periodic oral examination and risk assessment.
 - (2) Timely and routine delivery of systemic and topical agents to promote resistance to oral diseases.
 - (3) Education and counseling to control and modify risk factors that predispose to oral diseases, especially cancer, dental decay, and periodontal disease.

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distribution is unlimited.

c. Frequent monitoring of unit and individual dental readiness.

d. Marines identified in need of dental care will receive timely corrective treatment to attain a standard of readiness and achieve dental health.

5. Policy

a. The unit dental readiness shall be at least 85 percent for all units per reference (a). Dental readiness is defined as those personnel in dental classes 1 and 2.

b. Dental classification of individuals is determined in accordance with reference (b) and is described in the enclosure, Dental Classification Guidelines. The guidelines define dental classifications and are designed to assist commanders in determining dental priorities and requirements for various school and duty assignments, as noted in references (c) through (g).

6. Action

a. Unit commanders:

(1) Are responsible for the overall dental health of personnel assigned.

(2) Shall ensure that their personnel achieve dental standards to support readiness and that the unit dental readiness is at or above 85 percent.

(3) If dental assets are insufficient to attain unit dental readiness requirements, shall determine priorities for care between units.

(4) Shall establish liaison with the supporting dental activity to routinely update unit rosters and for scheduling of appointments.

(5) Within the limitations of operational requirements, shall take positive action to ensure that all scheduled appointments are filled.

b. Commanding Officers at Dental Battalions/Naval Dental Centers in support of USMC units:

(1) Shall coordinate and prioritize resources to maximize dental readiness and promote oral health of Marine units.

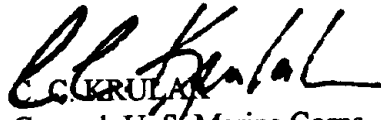
(2) Provide unit dental readiness reports to the supported unit commanders.

(a) The unit dental readiness report must provide, at a minimum, the following information: Unit identification, date of report, dental treatment facility point of contact and telephone number, unit population in each of the four dental classifications, and unit dental readiness.

(b) The unit dental readiness report shall be provided as requested, but at least quarterly.

7. Objective. The objective of the Marine Corps Dental Health Care Program is the timely attainment of dental readiness by all USMC units and oral health for each individual. These standards will decrease the amount of time lost by Marines seeking emergency dental treatment and can be used as a factor in planning dental support for deployments.

8. Reserve Applicability. This Order is not applicable to the Marine Corps Reserve.


C. C. KRULAK
General, U. S. Marine Corps
Commandant of the Marine Corps

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DENTAL CLASSIFICATION GUIDELINES

The dental classification system is based on the Department of Defense (DoD) Standardization of Dental Classifications. It is a standard whereby personnel are categorized for the purpose of urgency or priority for dental treatment, availability for assignment and determination of acceptable operational dental readiness of units. The system consists of 4 basic classifications:

- Class 1 - Patient does not require dental treatment.
- Class 2 - Patient requires dental treatment, but there is a low risk of a dental emergency and treatment can be deferred due to other priorities for up to 12 months.
- Class 3 - Patient requires urgent dental treatment and has a high risk of having a dental emergency at any time.
- Class 4 - The oral condition of the patient is unknown.

Application of Dental Classification system to USMC programs

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|---------|------------------|---------------|
| Class 1 | - Recruiters | MCO 1326.6B |
| | Independent Duty | MCO 1306.2N |
| | Security Guard | MCO 1300.20H |
| Class 2 | - Reenlistment | MCO P1040.31D |
| | Combat Readiness | See Note |
| | Drill Instructor | See Note |
| | Extended Schools | See Note |

Note: Not defined by a specific MCO but considered appropriate and desirable for these categories.

ENCLOSURE (1)